

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**IN RE: UNITED SPECIALTY INSURANCE
COMPANY SKI PASS INSURANCE
LITIGATION,**

Case No.: 4:20-md-02975-YGR

**ORDER APPOINTING THE SCHWARTZ
SCHIRGER GROUP AS CO-LEAD AND INTERIM
CLASS COUNSEL**

Re: Dkt. Nos. 9, 14, 15, 16

On October 2, 2020, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation transferred to this Court the following actions:

4:20-CV-02463-YGR, *Kodoma v. American Claims Management, et al.*

4:20-CV-07042-YGR, *Bradley v. United Specialty Insurance Company*

4:20-CV-07069-YGR, *Hoak v. United Specialty Insurance Company*

4:20-CV-07237-YGR, *Tourgee v. United Specialty Insurance Company*

4:20-CV-07239-YGR, *Mair v. United Specialty Insurance Company*

4:20-CV-07241-YGR, *Mueller v. United Specialty Insurance Company*

4:20-CV-08072-YGR, *Handorf v. United Specialty Insurance Company*

(collectively, the “Individual Cases”).

On November 16, 2020, the Court conducted an initial case management conference to address the anticipated motions for appointment of lead counsel in this MDL.

On December 1, 2020, the Court received applications for lead or co-lead counsel from (1) plaintiffs Ann C. Hoak, John Nevraumont, and Sunit Anandwala for the appointment of Rachel E. Schwartz of Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP and John Schirger of Miller Schirger LLC; (2) plaintiffs Dan Kodama and Michael Odell for the appointment of Bursor & Fisher, P.A.; and (3) plaintiffs James

Bradley, Marcus Mair, Luke Mueller, and Lee Tourgee for the appointment of Derek H. Potts of Potts Law Firm.¹

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COURT ORDERS as follows:

I. APPLICABILITY OF ORDER

The provisions of this Order (and of future orders identified as applicable to all cases in this MDL) shall govern the practice and procedures in the cases that were transferred to this Court by the MDL Panel pursuant to its order of October 2, 2020. This Order also applies to all related cases filed in the Northern District of California and will also apply to any “tag-along actions” later filed in, removed to, or transferred to this Court.

II. MASTER DOCKET

The Clerk of Court will maintain a master docket case file under the case name, “In Re: United Specialty Insurance Company Ski Pass Insurance Litigation,” and the master docket identification number 4:20-md-02975 as well as the identification “MDL No. 2975.” All pleadings and filings shall be filed in the master docket Case No. 4:20-md-02975. When a pleading or filing is intended to be applicable to all actions, this shall be noted in the caption by the words: “This Document Relates to All Actions.”

The Court anticipates that all issues referenced in the Individual Cases will be addressed in a Consolidated Complaint and that the Individual Cases can be administratively terminated. In the interim, if a pleading or filing is required and intended to apply to fewer than all cases, this Court’s docket number for the individual case or cases to which the docket number relates shall appear in the caption immediately after the words: “This Document Relates to [individual case number(s)].”

III. APPOINTMENT OF CO-LEAD AND INTERIM CLASS COUNSEL

The Court appoints Rachel E. Schwartz of Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP (“Stueve Siegel”) and John Schirger of Miller Schirger LLC (“Miller Schirger”) (collectively, the “Schwartz Schirger

¹ Plaintiffs Bradley, Mair, Mueller, Tourgee, and Mary Handorf filed a joint motion to establish plaintiffs’ leadership structure on November 10, 2020, prior to the initial case management conference. In light of the subsequent application by plaintiffs Bradley, Mair, Mueller, and Tourgee to appoint Derek H. Potts of the Potts Law Firm as lead counsel and interim class counsel, the Court considers the November 10, 2020 motion to have been withdrawn. Following the conference, plaintiff Handorf made no application for appointment of lead counsel and interim class counsel.

Group”) to act as Co-Lead and Interim Class Counsel (“Co-Lead Counsel”) for plaintiffs and other members of the proposed classes in this MDL.

Co-Lead Counsel shall have the authority to make all decisions regarding pleadings for plaintiffs in the related cases and to speak for plaintiffs in matters regarding pre-trial procedure, trial, and settlement and shall make all work assignments in such manner as to facilitate the orderly and efficient prosecution of this MDL and to avoid duplicative or unproductive effort. To the extent necessary, other plaintiffs’ counsel shall keep contemporaneous time and expense records and shall provide such records upon request to Co-Lead Counsel.

Co-Lead Counsel shall be responsible for coordinating all activities and appearances on behalf of plaintiffs. No motion, request for discovery, or other pre-trial or trial proceeding shall be initiated or filed by any plaintiff except through Co-Lead Counsel.

Co-Lead Counsel shall be available and responsible for communications to and from this Court, including distributing orders and other directions from the Court to counsel, and shall be responsible for communications with defendants on matters of case administration and scheduling. Co-Lead Counsel shall further be responsible for creating and maintaining a service list of all parties and their respective counsel.

Service of pleadings and other papers by defendants shall be made only upon Stueve Siegel and Miller Schirger who are authorized and directed to accept service on behalf of all plaintiffs in this MDL and any later actions consolidated herewith.

IV. SCHEDULE

Plaintiffs shall file a Consolidated Complaint no later than **December 24, 2020**. The Consolidated Complaint or a related filing should address the status of the Individual Cases, including whether they should be terminated administratively or otherwise. Defendants shall answer, move, or otherwise respond to the Consolidated Complaint by **January 22, 2021**.

This Order terminates Docket Numbers 9, 14, 15, and 16.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 10, 2020


YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE